



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2007

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Doug Hutchison at (615) 313-4749

### **DHS ANNOUNCES 2007 SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM** *LOCAL AGENCIES NEEDED AS SPONSORS OF FEEDING SITES*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**--The Tennessee Department of Human Services is working hard to ensure that more low-income children receive healthy, nutritious meals during the coming summer months. To achieve this goal, DHS is recruiting new sponsors in unserved areas of the state in order to increase participation in the 2007 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by DHS, the program is designed to serve nutritious meals to low-income children during the summer months when the school lunch and breakfast programs are usually inactive.

To implement the program, the Department contracts annually with a wide variety of local agencies ("sponsors") which arrange to produce, deliver and serve free meals and snacks to children at one or more approved locations ("sites") in their area. In 2006, 46 sponsors operated 1,218 sites at parks and playgrounds, recreation centers, schools, churches, camps, housing projects and other eligible places accessible primarily to needy children.

To promote expansion of the program, Tennessee will again administer the SFSP under "simplified" federal requirements. This means local sponsors will be reimbursed solely on the number of meals served times the USDA's reimbursement rates. Unlike the regular SFSP where sponsors' costs are considered, this change allows agencies to receive the maximum payments possible according to the rates.

Sponsorship of the program is available to the following organizations:

- Public and private non-profit school food authorities;
- State, county or municipal governments;
- Colleges and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program;
- Residential public or private non-profit summer camps; and
- Private non-profit organizations.

Sponsors must agree to serve meals to all children in attendance regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

For information on sponsoring the SFSP, contact David Farmer or Doug Hutchison, preferably before March 16, 2007, at (615) 313-4749. They can also be reached by e-mail at [david.farmer@state.tn.us](mailto:david.farmer@state.tn.us) or [doug.hutchison@state.tn.us](mailto:doug.hutchison@state.tn.us).

The deadline for agencies to submit sponsor applications is May 1, 2007.

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